

HONEY PRODUCTION

Honey production varies considerably from season to season. During the last 20 years the lowest recorded was 678,348 lbs. in 1929-30, and the highest for many years was 4,791,526 lbs in 1932-33. The lowest in more recent years was 2,388,647 lbs. in 1939-40 followed by another record high of 5,324,611 lbs in 1940-41. In 1944-45 the production was 4,652,002 lbs in 1945-46 it was 3,182,042, and in 1946-47 the all time record high of 8,672,753 lbs was produced. The mean for the previous ten seasons was only 3,675,000 lbs was produced. The production for 1947-48 was 5,298,161 lbs, having been exceeded only by the record total of the previous season and by a little in 1940-41.

85,405 lbs. of beeswax were produced also, being exceeded only by the record quantity of 105,783 lbs. the previous year.

In 1947-48 there were reported to be 73,437 productive and 19,614 unproductive hives, which numbers were higher than in previous seasons. There were 1,186 beekeepers compared with 1,099 in 1946-47.

The export year ending on 30th June does not fit the production year as some of the current year's production would be exported after 30th June. The quantities exported direct to overseas countries had varied from none or only a few pounds in many years to 3,832,384 lbs in 1946-47 with the second highest 3,139,142 lbs in 1947-48. The total for the calendar year 1947 was 4,548,496 lbs, most of which was sent to the United Kingdom.

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4th August, 1948.